

## **Defense Security Cooperation Agency**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

On the web: <a href="http://www.dsca.mil">http://www.dsca.mil</a> Media/Public Contact: (703) 601-3670

**Date: 18 April 2003** 

## U.S. and Poland Sign F-16 Deal

On 18 April, the U.S. Department of Defense and the Government of Poland signed agreements governing a \$3.5 billion sale of F-16s for the Polish Air Force. The foreign military sales (FMS) agreement, valued at over \$3.5 billion, includes 48 F-16 C/D Block 50/52 fighter aircraft, weapons, logistics support and training. An agreement was also signed for a \$3.8 billion U.S. Government foreign military financing (FMF) direct loan.

The signing of key documents by the Director of the U.S. Defense Security Cooperation Agency Lt. Gen. Tome H. Walters, and Poland's Minister of Defense Jerzy Szmajdzinski and Deputy Prime Minister / Minister of Finance Grzegorz Kolodko follows nearly two years of intense efforts to finalize the deal, which will be the largest security assistance program in Central Europe. Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Corporation, the prime contractor for the aircraft, signed a separate agreement with Poland's Minister of Economy, Labor and Social Policy Jerzy Hausner, to implement a related offset arrangement.

Poland's procurement of the F-16 fighter aircraft represents a major step in further solidifying the strong strategic relationship between the United States and Poland. Poland, which recently celebrated its fourth anniversary of joining NATO, is a key U.S. ally in Central Europe. The sale of the F-16 will enable Poland to increase its interoperability with the U.S. military and NATO, and will enhance its participation in joint and coalition military missions.